CAG report regarding Golden Quadrilateral Project

3230. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAG in its report has pulled up NHAI for delay in Golden Quadrilateral Project;

(b) if so, whether Rs. 58000 crore NHAI development projects has not much to bolster corridor concepts as envisaged originally with overall performance of phase I at 29 per cent;

(c) whether according to CAG report authority completed only 1,846 km. in terms of completed stretches of target of 6,359 km. by scheduled date of June, 2004; and

(d) if so, the main reason and the steps Government propose to take to implement suggestions made by CAG for completion of Golden Quadrilateral project during 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (d) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) for the year ended March 2004, Union Government (Commercial), Public Sector Undertakings, National Highways Development Project of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), No. 7 of 2005 has been laid on the Table of the House on 11th May 2005. In the report among other observations, the Audit have also commented upon the delay in execution of the Golden Quadrilateral Corridor of National Highways Development Project.

The CAG has *inter-alia* commented that NHAI could complete works of Golden Quadrilateral to the extent of 1,846 km (29 per cent) upto June 2004. The corridor-wise achievement in completion of work in respect of Delhi-Mumbai, Mumbai-Chennai, Chennai-Kolkata and Kolkata-Delhi upto June 2004 including partially completed stretches was 82 percent, 46 percent, 45 percent and 25 percent respectively. The balance works are expected to be completed by December 2005. The corridor concept as envisaged was yet to emerge.

The effective target for completion of NHDP Phase I mainly Golden Quadrilateral was 2005. Substantial completion of Golden Quadrilateral is expected by December 2005. Despite impediments to the progress such as delays in land acquisition, environmental clearance, utility shifting etc. the progress of such large infrastructure was significant. While calculating the completion of only 29% the Audit have only taken into account the completed stretches in fully completed projects ignoring completed portions in ongoing projects. In fact as on 30th June 2004 the total length of 2892 kms i.e. 49.46% in Golden Quadrilatral had been four laned. As on 31st July 2005 total road length of 4944 kms i.e. 84% in Golden Quadrilateral has been four laned.

The suggestions made by CAG are as under:

- NHAI may strengthen planning regime and follow mechanism to remove bottlenecks.
- NHAI may ensure standardization and uniformity in contract provisions and approval process.
- NHAI may include and invoke a stringent provision in contract agreements against erring consultants.
- NHAI may devise vendor development policies and framework so that better competition in terms of cost as well as technology transfer could be generated.
- NHAI may improve monitoring of the quality of work done by civil contractors.

Some of the Action Taken by the Government are as under:

- A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted to address inter-ministerial and Central-States issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, Environment approvals, clearance of Road Over Bridges etc.
- A number of policy guidelines have been issued by NHAI to standardize and streamline the procedure to being in uniformity and to strengthen the system, procedure and internal control etc.

- State Governments have appointed Senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the National Highways Development Project such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/ pollution/environment clearances etc.
- To expedite the construction of Road Over Bridges, an officer of the Railways has been posted to National Highways Authority of India to coordinate with Railways, Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with M/s IRCON International Limited.
- Performance of the contractors are being closely monitory and non performing contractors are identified.

Guidelines for LNG chartering

3231. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to relax the guidelines pertaining to LNG chartering to allow the LNG purchaser the choice of carrier for import; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No Sir, Ministry of Shipping Road Transport and Highways has no proposal to relax the guidelines pertaining to LNG chartering.

(b) Does not arise.

Widening of National Highways in Maharashtra

3232. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals for widening of National Highways and converting them into four or six lane roads in Maharashtra is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and